

Hebrews Lesson 24

Chapter 5

20 January 2025

“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained...” (vs 1)

Qualifications and duties of a priest:

1. Must be able to understand men (know what they are going through)
 - a. Aaron could relate to the struggles of the Israelites. He had the same challenges.
2. Must be ordained (set apart for this office).
 - a. Ordination is a formal recognition of a man’s right to hold an office.
 - b. God formally declared Jesus to be a priest: “**Thou art a priest forever...**” (vs 6). See **Psalm 110:4**. See also **Matthew 22:43-44**.
 - i. When we acknowledge and accept His priesthood, it will greatly benefit us.
3. Must be taken from among men.
 - a. Accordingly, “*the man Christ Jesus*” is the emphasis in Hebrews.
4. He represents others, standing between an angry God and a sinful world.
5. His work is primarily in things pertaining to God (sacred things, not secular things).
6. He offers gifts and sacrifices. No one else can intrude into this office. (see Uzziah in 2 Chron 26:19).
 - a. Gifts: acknowledge God as the Creator, the dispenser of good.
 - b. Sacrifices: owns God as Lord and Judge.
7. His interest is not in self, but in others.
8. A priest cannot provide absolution for sins. He represents man to God.
 - a. A prophet represents God to man. Absolution (pardon) must come from God to man.
 - b. Jewish priests never absolved sins.
 - c. Jesus Christ is prophet, priest, and king. He can offer for our sins, forgive our sins, and rule over (govern) us to keep us from sin.

Spiritual Babes (vs 12-13) The two greatest hindrances to growth are doctrinal error and moral evil.

- The Hebrew Christians were rebuked for being babies.
- Babies need a lot of time to grow, but a Christian can grow as fast as they want to. If you are not growing, it shows that you are not doing what you should be doing.
 - Reading the bible and living by it.
 - Praying
 - Witnessing
 - Fellowshiping with believers and praising God in song.
 - Avoiding worldly pleasures and distractions.

- You could be a developed, knowledgeable, mature Christian just months after your salvation (See the Thessalonian Church in Acts 17 who “turned the world upside down”). Devote your life to Christ and you will grow quickly.
- Growth is not about how much you know. It’s about making application with what you know.
- Deep doctrines don’t come later in your Christian life. The deepest doctrines concern your salvation.
 - God manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, dying in a few hours to pay the eternal penalty for the sins of the whole world.
 - Our Christian life begins with the deepest of doctrines.
 - Everything you learn in the bible after salvation is easier than salvation.
- Contrasting the milk of the word with strong meat does not refer to easy vs difficult. It teaches us the importance of obtaining the essential doctrines of salvation and then moving on and putting it into practice. That is spiritual maturity: applying what you learn.
 - Knowledge is easily acquired.
 - Application of knowledge requires diligence.
 - If you won’t put yourself into situations where you can exercise and apply your knowledge, you will find yourself constantly starting over from the beginning.
 - You can’t do that if you isolate yourself from other people.

Being made perfect (vs 9)

“Perfect” means complete or entire. It never means sinless.

- Before Christ came to earth, He was sinless, but there was something lacking that He needed to acquire in order to be the Savior of the world.
 - As our High Priest, Jesus needed to fully understand what it is to be a man.
 - To be touched with the feelings of our infirmities and be tempted in all points as we are tempted (Heb 4:15).
 - To surrender His will to the Father’s will (Luke 22:42).
 - To know what it is to die.
 - Old Testament saints had no comforter (Eccl. 4:1, Lam. 1:9, John 14:18).
 - Before Jesus came, there was no mediator (Job 9:33, 1 Tim. 2:5).
 - Before Jesus came, God could forgive iniquity, but not clear the guilty (Exod. 34:7, Num 14:18).
- We are being perfected (Eph. 4:11-12), becoming more and more like Christ.
- Christ’s perfection means that He is more fully available to meet the needs of man.
- Things Jesus didn’t have before He came to Earth:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete removal of sins for man ○ A new office as Great High Priest ○ A new and permanent rest ○ Eternal salvation ○ Redemption ○ A new covenant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A human body ○ A new joy ○ A new company of worshippers ○ A new way of doing the Father’s will.
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